

William R. Overlease Collection on Indiana State Parks

L243, OBD33, V227

1868

2 mss. boxes, 2 vol., 1 os. folder

Rare Books and Manuscripts Division
Indiana State Library

Processed by: Elizabeth M. Wilkinson, February 2007

Finding aid updated: Laura Eliason, 11/14/2015

Biographical and Historical Note:

William Roy Overlease worked as a naturalist for the Indiana State Park system for five years in the 1950s. In 1963, Overlease became a professor of Biology at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. Prof. Overlease is currently retired from teaching and living in Bloomington, Indiana.

The Indiana State Parks traces its history back to 1916. Colonel Richard Lieber, an Indianapolis businessman and German immigrant, recommended that a state park system be created as part of Indiana's celebration of its centennial. Lieber became a national leader in the state parks movement and assisted other states in forming their own systems as well. He became the first Director of the Indiana Department of Conservation, serving for more than a decade.

Source:

Department of natural Resources. "History and Culture."

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/about_history.html>

"Robert B. Gordon Natural Area for Environmental Studies." <<http://darwin.wcupa.edu/~ecology/gordon-area/history.html>>

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of materials compiled by naturalist, William R. Overlease, regarding Spring Mill State Park, Brown County State Park, McCormick's Creek State Park, and Turkey Run State Park. The collection includes correspondence, pamphlets, reports, notes, postcards, and some photographs.

Materials are grouped by park.

Box and Folder Listing:

Box 1.

Folder

1. Spring Mill State Park correspondence and papers, 1951-1955
2. Spring Mill State Park correspondence and papers, 1956-1959, undated
3. Report on Spring Mill Museum and Village, winter 1954
4. Spring Mill State Park: Naturalist activity reports, June 1955-Oct. 1956
5. Spring Mill, naturalists manual. 1954-1955
6. Spring Mill State Park: Indiana Pioneer Life, Major Research Project no. 2, 1956

Box1, Folder 7. Spring Mill State Park: Correspondence regarding George Donaldson
1868 Jan. From George Donaldson to Scotland, describing life in Mitchell.

Indiana and possibility of moving from Scotland to Mitchell.

1878 Mar. 19 From George Donaldson in Spring Hill. Alabama. describing Spring -
Summer season in Alabama.

1878 July 9 George Donaldson to Mr. Turley re a two dollar payment to William
Lyon.

1881 Mar. From George Donaldson re life in Springhill, Alabama

1881 Apr. 8 From George Donaldson in Springhill, Alabama containing more of life
in Alabama and news of Mr. Ramie and his mother

1882 Sept. 19 From George Donaldson re care of his house and land in his absence
and action taken regarding destruction of property.

1883 Sept. A printed description. Originally in the form of a handbill, in which
George Donaldson advertises property in Southern Indiana
for sale.

A description of the property is given,
1883 Sept. 3 Letter from George Donaldson. Alabama to K.B. Turley. Indiana,
personal note re information regarding the destruction of
Donaldson property in Indiana.

1883 Nov. 1 Letter from George Donaldson in Louisville to "Bruce" re recovered
articles and other information concerning destruction
of Indiana property.

1884 Apr. From George Donaldson in Cincinnati (to B.K.?) - request for
information reburning and robbing of Indiana property

1885 Feb. 28 From George Donaldson in Springhill. Alabama re use and repair of
property in Indiana

1888 Sept. 25 From George Donaldson to Jonathon Turley re property in Indiana and
its possible purchase price

1891 Aug. 1 From George Donaldson. Discusses land in Indiana. location of water
and the death of a Mrs. Mahan

1-12-1893 From George Donaldson to J. Turley re the death of Mrs. Turley.
growth of Bedford and Mitchell and considerations on the
sale of the Indiana property

1897 July From George Donaldson to Miss Eliza re deaths of Father and Mrs.
Sarah Lynn, inquires of Mrs. James Lynn, Doctor
McIntyre and Mill at Hamer's.

1901 May 5 Excerpts term letters written by Emma E. Currie re George Donaldson,
his property in Indiana. and people associated

- with the property.
- 1902 Jan. 7 From Emma Currie to Eliza Turley re Donaldson's Indiana property being awarded to the state of Indiana to be preserved
- 1906 June 28 Article by Emma Currie to the editor of the Mitchell Tribune re corrections to his "Shawnee Cottage Ruins" article re George Donaldson
- 1908 May 3 Emma E. Currie to friends at Shawnee re the condition of Shawnee and the mistakes in the Mitchell Tribune article
- 1911 Feb. 21 From Emma E. Currie re inheritance of property at Shawnee and inquiries of news from there.
- 1929 June 27 Information from a newspaper article in Indianapolis Star by Bessie Lynn Hufford; letter from Emma Currie published in Mitchell Tribune; excerpt from Puget Diary; and an article from Louisville, Ky. paper - all re George Donaldson
- 1929 June 27 Excerpts from deed records re George Donaldson
- 1929 July 30 Excerpts from articles in the Indianapolis Star regarding George Donaldson
- 1930 Apr. 2 Excerpts from articles in the Indianapolis Star regarding George Donaldson
- 1930 June 16 Excerpts from articles in the Indianapolis Star regarding George Donaldson
- 1931 Excerpts re George Donaldson and some history of his land taken from Spring Mill State Park - A History and Description, Dept. of Conservation.
- undated From George Donaldson re the recovery of certain stolen articles and reference to the burning and robbing of his Indiana property
- undated From George Donaldson in Cincinnati re the destruction of his Indiana property and requesting information there of.
- undated From George Donaldson in gratitude for receiving Grape vines
- undated From George Donaldson offering croquet set of friends
- undated Two incomplete letters from George Donaldson describing land and possibility of it becoming a resort, and regarding "Mrs. Mary"
- undated Quotes from History of Indiana University by Burton Dorr Myers re turning Donaldson Farm into a state park
- undated Notes from Donaldson vs. State Supreme Court of Indiana, June 26, 1903
- undated Biographical information re Donaldson taken from various sources
- Folder
8. Spring Mill State Park photographs (4 items)
 9. Brown County State Park: Papers, notes, and correspondence, 1952-1955, undated
 10. McCormick's Creek State Park: Correspondence, notes, and clippings, 1914, 1938, 1951-1976
 11. McCormick's Creek State Park: Reports and notes, undated

12. Notes on McCormick's Creek State Park, 1950s

Box 2.

Folder

1. McCormick's Creek State Park photographs and postcards, 1940s and 1950s (12 items)
2. Turkey Run State Park: Papers and notes, 1928-1973, undated
3. Turkey Run State Park postcards and photographs, 1940s and 1950s (14 items)
4. Miscellaneous material, 1950s.

OBD33, 1 Folder.

1932 May Spring Mill Village State Park planting plan 1
1950 reprint Bloomington, Indiana topography map

Volumes.

V227-1 Spring Mill: Hidden Valley Village by Norman C. Evans, 1953
V227-2 A Study of Pioneer Village Spring Mill, Indiana by William Overlease, 1977

Collection Information:

<i>Size of Collection:</i>	2 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize folder, 2 volumes
<i>Collection Dates:</i>	1868-1977, undated
<i>Provenance:</i>	William R. Overlease, 4 January 1978
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